



CONGRESS
SHOULD
PROTECT
WHAT
YOU'VE
EARNED.

AN UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE AND RETIREMENT SECURITY
FROM CONGRESSWOMAN LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

Congresswoman **LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**
IS PROTECTING OUR
SENIORS AND
WORKING FAMILIES



Congresswoman Linda Sánchez explains her work to help seniors avoid late penalties and coverage gaps in Medicare Part D.

Medicare Part D: Getting Rid of Lifetime Penalties and Coverage Gaps

Following the initial enrollment deadline on May 15th, eligible seniors who want to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit are now forced to pay a lifetime late penalty. Many seniors are also falling into the program's "donut hole" – a coverage gap that allows HMO's to collect premiums while seniors pay all their expenses out of pocket. For many seniors with already high prescription drug bills, this penalty and coverage gap will cost them money they do not have.

Congresswoman Sánchez co-sponsored the Medicare Informed Choice Act (H.R. 3861), which would extend the enrollment period for Medicare Part D. This extra time would also allow Congress to address the program's other problems, including the donut hole.



FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

DEAR NEIGHBOR:

I am sending you this update to let you know about some efforts in Congress to help seniors and working families. It is clear to me – especially here in Southern California – that Congress needs to do more to serve the people that have built and continue to drive our community.

Unfortunately, the Medicare prescription drug benefit, which was poorly designed by the Congressional Republican majority, is beginning to show its faults. This comes at a time when individuals are having their pensions cut by corporations.

The good news is that there are some of us in Washington working to fix bad programs and beat back attempts to take away the retirement income you have earned.

I came to Congress because I thought our government should do more to help the people that need it most. That's what inspires me to keep working hard.

If you have any questions about the issues in this newsletter, please visit my homepage at www.lindasanchez.house.gov or call my Lakewood office at 562-429-8499.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda T. Sánchez".

Congresswoman **LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**



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Retirement Security: Corporations Shouldn't Cash in Your Pension

Today, far too many corporations are breaking their promise to Americans by cashing out their pensions. While those corporate executives at the top are rewarded with multi-million dollar salary packages, working families are losing the foundation of their retirement.

Congresswoman Sánchez has worked to make sure seniors receive the pensions they earned. She co-sponsored the Pension Benefit Protection Act (H.R. 4052), which will stop companies from forcing retirees to convert their pensions to cash benefit plans. This accounting scheme robs retirees of the benefits they spent their lives earning.



Congresswoman Sánchez speaks with concerned seniors about prescription drug benefits.

Promising New Hope, Waiting for Action

Last year, Congresswoman Sánchez co-sponsored a bipartisan bill (H.R. 810) that would expand medical research opportunities to find cures for devastating conditions like diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, brain trauma and spinal cord injury.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810) will allow medical researchers to use stem cell materials that have been donated to clinics and would otherwise be destroyed. By using these stem cells, researchers will have new alternatives to develop breakthrough solutions for millions of patients and their families.

Thank You For Your Feedback...

Thank you for taking the time to participate in Congresswoman Sánchez's 2006 Constituent Survey.

Your feedback provides Linda valuable insight to better represent your concerns in Congress. Here is a brief list of the top issues based on responses from you and your neighbors.

YOUR TOP 10 ISSUES

- 1. The War in Iraq**
- 2. Protecting Social Security**
- 3. Healthcare/Medicare**
- 4. Immigration**
- 5. Improving Education**
- 6. Homeland Security**
- 7. Civil Rights and Liberties**
- 8. Economy/Job Creation**
- 9. Combating Terrorism**
- 10. Reducing National Debt**

For more details on the Constituent Survey results, please visit Linda's website at www.house.gov/lindasanchez

Inside:

An Important Message from
CONGRESSWOMAN LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—THAT CONGRESS NEEDS
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BUILT AND CONTINUE TO DRIVE OUR COMMUNITY.”

— **Congresswoman LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

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